

Message Text

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EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PROCEEDING IN NATO WITH OPTION III

REF: A. NATO 2089, B. NATO 1967

1. IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III
IN NATO, YOU MAY PROCEED TO CONSULT UK AND FRG PERM REPS
REGARDING MODALITIES FOR TREATING OPTION III WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE US DESIRE THAT NAC CONSUL-
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TATIONS BE PITCHED AT BROAD POLICY LEVEL. YOU SHOULD

EXPRESS US DESIRE TO SUPPLEMENT NAC AND SPC DISCUSSIONS WITH SPC MEETINGS REINFORCED WITH EXPERTS FROM EACH ALLIED CAPITAL. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HOYNCK'S SUGGESTION THAT REINFORCED SPC MEETINGS BE INTERSPERSED WITH SOME REGULAR SPC MEETINGS BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS, BUT YOU SHOULD URGE THAT KEY POLICY ISSUES BE DISCUSSED IN THE NAC AS THESE ISSUES ARE IDENTIFIED.

2. YOU SHOULD DISCOURAGE LINE TAKEN BY UK REP BAILES TO EXTEND NUMBER OF BODIES INVOLVED BEYOND SPC. WE CONCUR IN YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT US PROPOSE IN THE NAC (AT TIME OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S INITIAL PRESENTATION) THAT SACEUR BE ASKED TO UPDATE SHAPE ASSESSMENT. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SINCE THE BASIC ASSESSMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED, THIS

UPDATE COULD BE MADE EXPEDITIOUSLY. THAT, TOGETHER WITH PARTICIPATION OF MC REP IN SPC SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET UK POINT OF NEED TO HAVE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON BOARD.

3. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS STRONG US OPPOSITION TO UK DESIRE FOR WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS CERTAIN MILITARY-TECHNICAL OPTION III ISSUES AS RAISED BY WOOD IN REF. A. TO KEEP FOCUS ON THE CENTRAL NEGOTIATING AND POLICY ISSUES AND TO EXPEDITE CONSULTATION PROCESS, WE STRONGLY PREFER TO CONFINE DISCUSSIONS TO POLICY ORIENTED FORUMS. SPC MEETINGS ATTENDED BY EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS AND BY THE MC REP SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE MILITARY-TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

4. REGARDING RUTH'S ESTIMATE THAT ALLIES WILL NEED 2-3 MONTHS TO CONSIDER OPTION III, YOU SHOULD DISCOURAGE SPECULATION ON LIKELY LENGTH OF CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, MAKING POINT THAT IN TRILATERALS, BOTH FRG AND UK REPS AGREED THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE AS EXPEDITIOUS AS POSSIBLE, BEARING IN MIND THE NEED TO AIR FULLY THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

5. REGARDING PORTUGAL, WE AGREE WITH MISSION THAT OPTION III DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT REQUIRE FURTHER EXCLUSION OF PORTUGUESE FROM CONSULTATION PROCESS. INSTRUCTIONS AND SECRET

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ANALYTICAL PAPER WHICH WILL BE SENT TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH INITIAL NAC PRESENTATION WILL NOT BE ATOMAL OR COSMIC TOP SECRET; THEREFORE, PORTUGUESE WILL BE ACCORDED SAME TREATMENT AS OTHER ALLIES.

6. COMMENTS ON YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO GIVE ADVANCE BRIEFING TO BELGIANS AND DUTCH WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTEL. KISSINGER

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